

Message Text

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43

ACTION NEA-12

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FM AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0000

UNCLAS TEHRAN 2225

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SWEL, IR

SUBJECT: HIM ANNOUNCES PARTIAL NATIONAL HEALTH PROGRAM

SUMMARY: FOLLOWING PUBLISHED HINTS OF NEW MEDICAL BENEFITS, HIS IMPERIAL MAJESTY DIRECTED GOI TO DEVELOP NATIONAL VACCINATION PROGRAM AND UNIVERSAL HEALTH IDENTIFICATION CARD SYSTEM. AT LATER PRESS CONFERENCE MINISTER OF HEALTH PUYAN COMMENTED THAT SOME 20 MILLION YOUNG IRANIANS WILL BE VACCINATED IN COMING YEAR. END SUMMARY.

1. FOLLOWING RECENT IMPERIAL ANNOUNCEMENT REGARDING FREE EDUCATION, A NUMBER OF ARTICLES HAVE APPEARED IN IRANIAN PRESS SUGGESTING THAT GOI WAS CONSIDERING SOME KIND OF FREE NATIONAL HEALTH PROGRAM. AT CABINET MEETING MARCH 19 HIM ANNOUNCED THROUGH PRIME MINISTER HOVEYDA THAT MINISTRY OF HEALTH MUST DEVELOP IN COMING IRANIAN YEAR (MARCH 21, 1974-MARCH 20, 1975) HEALTH PROGRAM INCLUDING FOLLOWING TWO POINTS:

A. GOVERNMENT IN SHORTEST POSSIBLE TIME IS TO ESTABLISH VACCINATION PROGRAM TO CONTROL CONTAGIOUS DISEASES AND TO DEVISE PROCEDURES TO INCREASE NATIONWIDE HEALTH TRAINING.

B. ALL IRANIANS TO HAVE HEALTH ID CARD ENTITLING BEARER TO VACCINATIONS AND INCLUDING RECORD OF PAST

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MEDICAL TREATMENT.

2. AT PRESS CONFERENCE MARCH 19 FOLLOWING CABINET MEETING
MINISTER OF HEALTH ANUSHIRVAN PUYAN STATED THAT UNDER NEW
PROGRAM SOME 20 MILLION IRANIANS UNDER AGE OF 20 WILL BE
VACCINATED BY MINHEALTH OFFICIALS WITHIN NEXT YEAR.
THEREAFTER VACCINATIONS FOR SMALLPOX, DIPHTHERIA, TUBERCULOSIS
AND POLIO WILL BE COMPULSORY FOR THOSE UNDER AGE 20.

3. THIS PARTIAL PROGRAM ANNOUNCED TODAY MAY BE FORERUNNER OF
MORE COMPREHENSIVE HEALTH PROGRAM BEING CONSIDERED BY SPECIAL
IMPERIAL COMMISSION. EMBASSY WILL FOLLOW UP AND REPORT MORE
FULLY AS ADDITIONAL INFORMATION BECOMES AVAILABLE.
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